

(d) In the case of a joint return it is not necessary that the prescribed relationship exist between the person claimed as a dependent and the spouse who furnishes the support; it is sufficient if the prescribed relationship exists with respect to either spouse. Thus, a husband and wife making a joint return may claim as a dependent a daughter of the wife's brother (wife's niece) even though the husband is the one who furnishes the chief support. The relationship of affinity once existing will not terminate by divorce or the death of a spouse. For example, a widower may continue to claim his deceased wife's father (his father-in-law) as a dependent provided he meets the other requirements of section 151.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11402, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 6603, 28 FR 7094, July 11, 1963; T.D. 7051, 35 FR 11020, July 9, 1970; T.D. 7291, 38 FR 33396, Dec. 4, 1973]

§ 1.152-3 Multiple support agreements.

(a) Section 152(c) provides that a taxpayer shall be treated as having contributed over half of the support of an individual for the calendar year (in cases where two or more taxpayers contributed to the support of such individual) if—

(1) No one person contributed over half of the individual's support,

(2) Each member of the group which collectively contributed more than half of the support of the individual would have been entitled to claim the individual as a dependent but for the fact that he did not contribute more than one-half of such support.

(3) The member of the group claiming the individual as a dependent contributed more than 10 percent of the individual's support, and

(4) Each other person in the group who contributed more than 10 percent of such support files a written declaration that he will not claim the individual as a dependent for any taxable year beginning in such calendar year.

(b) Application of the rule contained in paragraph (a) of this section may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example (1). Brothers A, B, C, and D contributed the entire support of their mother in 1956 in the following percentages: A, 30 percent; B, 20 percent; C, 29 percent; and D, 21 percent. Any one of the brothers, except

for the fact that he did not contribute more than half of her support, would have been entitled to claim his mother as a dependent. Consequently, any one of the brothers could claim a deduction for the exemption of the mother provided a written declaration (as provided in paragraph (c) of this section) from each of the other brothers is attached to his income tax return. Even though A and D together contributed more than one-half the support of the mother, A, if he wished to claim his mother as a dependent, would be required to attach written declarations from B, C, and D to his income tax return, since each of those three contributed more than 10 percent of the support and, but for the support requirement, would have been entitled to claim his mother as a dependent.

Example (2). E, an individual who resides with his son, received \$1,500 during the calendar year 1956, which constituted his entire support for that year. The source of the \$1,500 was as follows:

Source	Amount received	Percentage of total
Social Security	\$375	25
N, an unrelated neighbor	165	11
B, a brother	210	14
D, a daughter	150	10
S, a son	600	40
Total received by E	1,500	100

B, D, and S are persons each of whom, but for the fact that he did not contribute more than half of the \$1,500, could claim E as a dependent for a taxable year beginning in 1956. The three together contributed \$960, or 64 percent of the \$1,500, and, thus, each is a member of the group to be considered for the purpose of section 152(c). B and S are the only members of such group who can meet all the requirements of section 152(c) and either one could claim E as a dependent for his taxable year beginning in 1956 provided he attached to his income tax return a written declaration (as provided in paragraph (c) of this section) signed by the other, and furnished the other information required by the return with respect to all the contributions to E. Inasmuch as D did not contribute more than 10 percent of E's support, she is not entitled to claim E as a dependent for a taxable year beginning in 1956 nor is she required to file a written declaration with respect to her contributions to E. N contributed over 10 percent of the support of E in 1956 but, since he is an unrelated neighbor, he does not qualify as a member of the group for the purpose of the multiple support agreement under section 152(c).

(c) The member of a group of contributors who claim an individual as a dependent under the multiple support agreement provisions of section 152(c)

must attach to his income tax return for the year of the deduction a written declaration from each of the other persons who contributed more than 10 percent of the support of such individual and who, but for the failure to contribute more than half of the support of the individual, would have been entitled to claim the individual as a dependent. The written declaration required by this paragraph may be made on Form 2120. Any declaration made other than on Form 2120 shall conform to the substance of Form 2120. The taxpayer claiming the individual as a dependent should be prepared to furnish other information, when required, which will substantiate his right to claim such individual as a dependent. Such information may include a statement showing the names of all contributors (whether or not members of the group described in section 152(c)) and the amount contributed by each to the support of the claimed dependent.

[T.D. 6500, 25 FR 11402, Nov. 26, 1960, as amended by T.D. 6603, 28 FR 7094, July 11, 1963]

§ 1.152-4 Support test in case of child of divorced or separated parents.

(a) *Applicability.* For taxable years beginning after December 31, 1966, the provisions of section 152(e) and this section relate to a determination of which of separated parents (that is, parents who are divorced or legally separated under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance, or separated under a written separation agreement) is to be treated for purposes of section 152(a) and § 1.152-1 as having provided more than half of the support of a child, as defined in section 151(e)(3) and § 1.151-3(a). For section 152(e) and this section to apply either parent or both parents combined must provide more than one-half of the child's total support, within the meaning of § 1.152-1(a)(2)(i) during the calendar year in which the taxable year of the parent who is claiming the child as a dependent begins; and such child must be in the custody of one or both of his parents for more than one-half of the calendar year. Thus, section 152(e) and this section do not apply if a person other than the parents provides one-half or more for the support of such

child during the calendar year or has custody of the child for one-half or more of the calendar year. In addition, section 152(e) and this section do not apply in any case where over half of the support of the child is treated as having been received from a taxpayer pursuant to a multiple support agreement under the provisions of section 152(c) and § 1.152-3. Nor does section 152(e) and this section apply to a period for which a joint return signed by both parents is filed.

(b) *Custody.* "Custody," for purposes of this section, will be determined by the terms of the most recent decree of divorce or separate maintenance, or subsequent custody decree, or, if none, a written separation agreement. In the event of so-called "split" custody, or if neither a decree or agreement establishes who has custody, or if the validity or continuing effect of such decree or agreement is uncertain by reason of proceedings pending on the last day of the calendar year, "custody" will be deemed to be with the parent who, as between both parents, has the physical custody of the child for the greater portion of the calendar year.

(c) *General rule.* For purposes of section 152(a) and § 1.152-1, a child shall be treated as receiving over half of his support during the calendar year from the parent (hereinafter referred to as the "custodial parent") having custody within the meaning of paragraph (b) of this section for a greater portion of the calendar year unless the exceptions of paragraph (d) of this section apply. If the parents of such a child are divorced or separated for only a portion of a calendar year after having had joint custody of the child for the prior portion of the year, the parent who has custody for the greater portion of the remainder of the year after divorce or separation shall be treated as having custody for a greater portion of the calendar year. Except as provided in section 152(e)(2)(A) and paragraph (d)(2) of this section (relating to decree or agreement) parents who are unable to enter into a multiple support agreement under section 152(c) cannot enter into an agreement as to which parent is entitled to claim a child as a dependent. Therefore, in general, the custodial parent shall be allowed as a deduction